



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Nakai et al.

Serial No.: 09/539,025

Filed: March 30, 2000

For: **Method of Standardizing  
Character Information in Electronic  
Documents**

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Group Art Unit: 2178

Examiner: Schlaifer, Jonathan D.

Attorney Docket No.: JP980137

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By:

*Amelia C. Turner*  
Amelia C. Turner

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Sir:  
ENCLOSED HEREWITH:

- Appellant's Brief (in triplicate) (37 C.F.R. 1.192); and
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A fee of \$330.00 is required for filing an Appellant's Brief. Please charge this fee to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461. No additional fees are believed to be necessary. If, however, any additional fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees which may be required to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTENTION: Board of Patent Appeals  
and Interferences

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By:

*Amelia C. Turner*  
Amelia C. Turner

APPELLANT'S BRIEF (37 C.F.R. 1.192)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on June 10, 2004.

The fees required under § 1.17(c), and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefore, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief is transmitted in triplicate. (37 C.F.R. 1.192(a))

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### **REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST**

As reflected in the Assignment recorded on March 30, 2000, at Reel 010680, Frame 0059, the present application is assigned to International Business Machines Corporation, the real party in interest.

### **RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

With respect to other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there are no such appeals or interferences.

### **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-10 stand finally rejected as noted in the Final Office Action mailed February 25, 2004.

### **STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

Applicant's Response to Final Office Action, transmitted on April 26, 2004, has been entered.

### **SUMMARY OF INVENTION**

Applicants' claim 1 describes a method of standardizing character information in electronic documents. For each character in a document, character information is compared to character information within a target replacement font set. This comparison is made to automatically generate a comparison table for use during character information replacement. This comparison

table is then presented to a user who amends errors in the table itself. The character information is then replaced in the document based on the amended comparison table. The character information includes both character code as well as font information.

Applicants' claim 2 further describes the comparison step as including inputting an electronic source document, a font set used in this source document, a target standardization font set, a comparison table made in a previous conversion, font object information and a rule set. The font object information is used to describe a rule set to limit objects of character comparison. A comparison table candidate list is output.

Applicants' claim 3 describes, in addition to the steps of claim 2, outputting weighting information regarding mapping between similar character codes as a reference.

Applicants' claim 4 describes the comparison table candidate list of claim 2 further including taking as elements groups comprising one character code within a source font and a plurality of character codes within a target font compatible with the source font.

Applicants' claim 5 describes adding priority level information for the character codes within the target font of claim 4.

Applicants' claim 6 describes the comparison table of claim 1 being a list taking as elements a corresponding relationship between a group of a source font set and character code within the source font set, and a group of a target font set and character code within the target font set.

Applicants' claim 7 describes the comparison step of claim 1 being carried out automatically using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology.

Applicants' claim 8 describes the amending step of claim 1 further including displaying a candidate list for the comparison table for every entry and a user selecting a character code from the list.

Applicants' claim 9 describes, in addition to the steps of claim 1, the comparison table and a rule set describing a structure of a source electronic document being input and standardization of fonts and character code used in the source document being carried out in the step of replacing the character information.

Applicants' claim 10 describes the font set to be provided as a replacement font being a font with Unicode encoding.

## **ISSUES**

Are the Examiner's rejections of claims 1, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Microsoft Word: User’s Guide”, 1993-1994, version 6.0, pages 48-50 [hereinafter *Microsoft*], claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of U.S. Patent 5,167,013 issued to *Hube* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,426,751 issued to *Patel*, claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and *Patel* and further in view of “Item-Mapping Subsystem” by *IBM TDB*, claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and *Patel* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,360,223 issued to *Ng*, claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube*, *Patel*, and *Ng*, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,257,323 issued to *Melen*, claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and *Ng*, claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,389,178 issued to *Agazzi*, and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* well founded?

## **GROUPING OF CLAIMS**

For the purposes of this appeal, claims 1-10 stand or fall together as one group.

## **ARGUMENT**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Microsoft Word: User’s Guide”, 1993-1994, version 6.0, pages 48-50 [hereinafter *Microsoft*]. This position is not well founded.

Applicants’ claim 1 describes comparing character information for each character in a document to character information in a target replacement font set to generate a comparison table. The comparison table is presented to a user. The user amends errors in the table itself.

The character information is replaced in the document based on the comparison table as amended.

*Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest (1) the step of comparing; (2) comparing character information including character code and font information; (3) comparing character information including character code and font information for each character in a document; (4) comparing character information to character information in a target replacement font set; (5) generating a comparison table; (6) amending the comparison table; (7) amending errors in the comparison table; (8) replacing character information; or (9) replacing character information based on the comparison table as amended.

*Microsoft* describes a SYMBOL font from which a symbol may be selected. The SYMBOL font set is provided with Microsoft Word. The symbols in the SYMBOL font set are provided as part of the SYMBOL font set. *Microsoft* does not describe these symbols in the font being altered, added, or deleted from the font set. The SYMBOL command is an input method for inputting non-ANSI characters into a document.

When a user wishes to insert a symbol into a document using *Microsoft*, the user places the cursor in the document where the user wishes the symbol to appear. The user then selects a font set, such as the SYMBOL font set, from which to select a symbol or other character. The table depicted on page 49 is displayed. The user then selects the symbol from the table, such as by double-clicking on the desired symbol. This selection then causes the symbol to be inserted into the document at the cursor's location in addition to any existing text already in the document.

*Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest the step of comparing. Nothing in the reference describes comparing a character in the document to anything else. Nothing in the reference describes comparing character information including both character code and font information. And, nothing in the reference describe comparing character information for each character in a document.

*Microsoft* describes creating a document and inputting characters into that document during the document's creation. *Microsoft* does not describe making a comparison for each character that is already included in the document. Applicants claim comparing character information for each character used in a document. *Microsoft* does not describe such a comparison because the SYMBOL command is used when inputting a new character into the

document. The SYMBOL command is not used for checking the characters that are already stored in the document.

*Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest the step of comparing character information. A position in a document, according to *Microsoft*, may be selected by a user into which a symbol can be inserted. This position is a physical location in the document. This position is not related to any character in the document. No comparison is made when the position is selected. When the symbol is inserted, the symbol does not replace an existing character. The selected symbol is not a replacement for a character in the document. The selected symbol is inserted into the document as an additional symbol in the document.

Applicants describe comparing character information including character code and font information to character information in a target replacement font set. *Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest the step of comparing. *Microsoft* also does not describe, teach, or suggest the step of comparing character information including character code and font information. *Microsoft* merely teaches that a symbol, or other character, can be selected from a preset table of characters and then inserted into a document in addition to the symbols or characters that already exist in the document.

*Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information for each character in a document to character information in a target replacement font set to generate a comparison table. *Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest generating a comparison table. The Symbol font table depicted on page 49 is provided by Microsoft Word as part of the software. This table is not generated. It is retrieved when a user selects a particular font set, such as the Symbol font set, to use.

*Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information for each character in a document to character information in a target replacement font set. When a user wishes to insert a symbol, the user may use the symbol table of *Microsoft* to select a symbol. The user selects a position in the document where the selected symbol is to be inserted. According to *Microsoft*, the user selects a symbol. The character information including character code and font information of a selected symbol are not compared to anything else. The symbol is merely selected. No comparison is made. No comparison including character code and font information is made. No comparison is made to character information in a replacement font set. The symbols in the symbol table of *Microsoft* are not a replacement font set.

*Microsoft* does not teach amending a comparison table. *Microsoft* does not teach amending the SYMBOL table. Symbols from this table may be selected to be inserted into a document. Nothing in *Microsoft* teaches amending the SYMBOL table.

Applicants describe amending errors in the comparison table. *Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest the possibility that errors might exist in the table depicted on page 49. *Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest amending the table in any way. This table is presented to the user. The user can select a symbol from the table. The user cannot amend the table.

The Examiner states that the table is presented to the user and used by the user to amend errors by selecting replacement characters. This is not what is claimed by Applicants, however. Applicants claim amending errors in the table itself. The Examiner appears to believe *Microsoft* reads on amending errors in the document. The Examiner does not state that *Microsoft* teaches amending errors in the table. The Examiner appears to state that *Microsoft* teaches amending errors in the user's document, and not in the table itself. *Microsoft* does not teach amending errors in the table itself. *Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest the possibility that errors might exist in the table.

Applicants describe replacing character information in the document based on the amended comparison table. As described above, *Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest replacing character information or amending the comparison table. *Microsoft* does not describe replacing character information because *Microsoft* merely describes inserting a symbol. *Microsoft* does not describe replacing character information that includes character code and font information. *Microsoft* does not describe replacing character information that includes character code and font information based on the comparison table as amended.

*Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest (1) the step of comparing; (2) comparing character information including character code and font information; (3) comparing character information including character code and font information for each character in a document; (4) comparing character information to character information in a target replacement font set; (5) generating a comparison table; (6) amending the comparison table; (7) amending errors in the comparison table; (8) replacing character information; or (9) replacing character information based on the comparison table as amended.



The Examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* without stating what feature claimed by Applicants is not taught by *Microsoft* but rendered unpatentable as being an obvious change to *Microsoft*.

Applicants' claim 8 further describes how the table itself is amended. The step of amending the table further includes displaying a candidate list for every entry of the table. A character code is then selected from the candidate list. As described above, *Microsoft* does not teach amending the table at all. Further, *Microsoft* does not teach displaying a candidate list for the table for every entry. The table of *Microsoft* is not amended at all. Nothing in *Microsoft* describes amending the table. *Microsoft* does not describe, teach, or suggest the possibility that errors might exist in the table. Nothing in *Microsoft* describes amending the table by displaying a candidate list for the comparison table for every entry.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of U.S. Patent 5,167,013 issued to *Hube* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,426,751 issued to *Patel*. This position is not well founded.

*Hube* describes a single font that is used for printing an entire document. *Hube* does not describe comparing character information for each character. *Hube* does not describe replacing character information for each character. *Hube* describes merely changing from one font, such as Times New Roman 12 point, to a different font, such as Times New Roman 10 point, when printing an entire document.

*Patel* describes font feature file processing. The Examiner states that *Hube* does not describe inputting font object information to describe a rule set to limit objects of character comparison and a rule set related to mapping for each kanji radical. The Examiner further states that *Patel* disclosed the use of glyphName to glyphID mappings.

The combination of *Microsoft*, *Hube*, and *Patel* does not describe, teach, or suggest all of the features of Applicants' claims 1 and 2. The combination of the cited prior art does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information for each character, comparing character information that includes both character code and font information, or amending errors in the comparison table in combination with inputting a font object information to describe a rule set to limit objects of character comparison and a rule set related to mapping for each kanji radical.

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and *Patel* and further in view of “Item-Mapping Subsystem” by *IBM TDB*. This position is not well founded.

Claim 3 describes outputting weighting information regarding mapping between similar character codes in a reference file. The combination of *Microsoft*, *Hube*, *Patel*, and *IBM TDB* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information for each character, comparing character information that includes both character code and font information, or amending errors in the comparison table in combination with outputting weighting information regarding mapping between similar character codes in a reference file.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and *Patel* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,360,223 issued to *Ng*. This position is not well founded.

Claim 4 describes comparing character information that includes both character code and font information in combination with a comparison table candidate list that takes as its elements groups comprising one character code within a source font and character codes within a target font compatible with the source font. The combination of *Microsoft*, *Hube*, *Patel*, and *Ng* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information that includes both character code and font information or amending errors in the comparison table in combination with a comparison table candidate list that takes as its elements groups comprising one character code within a source font and character codes within a target font compatible with the source font.

The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube*, *Patel*, and *Ng*, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,257,323 issued to *Melen*. This position is not well founded.

Claim 5 describes character information that includes both character code and font information or amending errors in the comparison table in combination with a comparison table candidate list that takes as its elements groups comprising one character code within a source font and character codes within a target font compatible with the source font and in combination with adding priority level information for the plurality of character codes within the target font.

The combination of *Microsoft*, *Hube*, *Patel*, *Ng* and *Melen* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information that includes both character code and font information in combination with a comparison table candidate list that takes as its elements groups

comprising one character code within a source font and character codes within a target font compatible with the source font and in combination with adding priority level information for the plurality of character codes within the target font.

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and *Ng*. This position is not well founded.

Claim 6 describes comparing character information that includes both character code and font information or amending errors in the comparison table in combination with the comparison table being a list taking as elements a corresponding relationship between a group of a source font set and character code within this source font set and a group of a target font set and character code within this target font set. The combination of *Microsoft*, *Hube*, and *Ng* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information that includes both character code and font information in combination with the comparison table being a list taking as elements a corresponding relationship between a group of a source font set and character code within this source font set and a group of a target font set and character code within this target font set.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,389,178 issued to *Agazzi*. This position is not well founded.

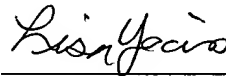
Claim 7 describes the step of comparing being carried out automatically using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. The combination of *Microsoft*, *Hube*, and *Agazzi* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information that includes both character code and font information or amending errors in the comparison table in combination with the step of comparing being carried out automatically using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology.

The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Microsoft* in view of *Hube*. This position is not well founded.

Claim 9 describes a comparison table and rule set describing a structure of a source document being input and standardization of fonts and character code used in the source document being carried out in the step of replacing the character information. The combination of *Microsoft* and *Hube* does not describe, teach, or suggest comparing character information for each character in a document to character information in a target replacement font set to generate a comparison table where the user amends errors in the table and the character information is

replaced in the document based on the comparison table as amended in combination with a comparison table and rule set describing a structure of a source document being input and standardization of fonts and character code used in the source document being carried out in the step of replacing the character information.

Applicants' claims are patentable over the cited prior art. The combination of references does not describe teach or suggest (1) the step of comparing; (2) comparing character information including character code and font information; (3) comparing character information including character code and font information for each character in a document; (4) comparing character information to character information in a target replacement font set; (5) generating a comparison table; (6) amending the comparison table; (7) amending errors in the comparison table; (8) replacing character information; or (9) replacing character information based on the comparison table as amended. Therefore, the references do not render Applicants' claims unpatentable.



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## **APPENDIX OF CLAIMS**

The text of the claims involved in the appeal reads:

1. A method of standardizing character information in electronic documents comprising the steps of:

comparing character information including character code and font information for each character used in an electronic document to character information within a target replacement font set in order to automatically generate a comparison table for use during actual character information replacement;

presenting said comparison table to a user;

said user amending errors in said comparison table; and

actually replacing said character information including character code and font information used in said electronic document based on said comparison table as amended.

2. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 1, wherein said step of comparing further comprises:

inputting an electronic source document;

inputting a font set used in said electronic source document;

inputting a target standardization font set;

inputting a comparison table made in a previous conversion;

inputting font object information to describe a rule set to limit objects of character comparison and a rule set related to mapping for each kanji radical; and

outputting a comparison table candidate list.

3. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

outputting weighting information regarding mapping between similar character codes as a reference file.

4. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 2, wherein said comparison table candidate list takes as elements groups comprising one character code within a source font and a plurality of character codes within a target font compatible with said source font.

5. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 4, further comprising adding priority level information for said plurality of character codes within said target font.

6. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 1, wherein the comparison table is a list taking as elements a corresponding relationship between a group of a source font set and character code within this source font set and a group of a target font set and character code within this target font set.

7. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 1, wherein said step of comparing is carried out automatically using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology.

8. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 1, wherein said step of amending error in said comparison table further comprises the steps of:

displaying a candidate list for the comparison table for every entry; and

said user selecting one character code from said candidate list.

9. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 1, wherein a comparison table and a rule set describing a structure of a source electronic document are input and standardization of fonts and character code used in said source electronic document are carried out in said step of replacing said character information.

10. The method of standardizing character information in electronic documents of claim 1, wherein said font set to be provided as a replacement font is a font with Unicode encoding.